

Reviewer comments-1

While there certainly does exist an extreme tension between religion and politics in the US, and I commend the author for their goal of educating practitioners on the role religion has played in shaping the American political arena the article has some issues that need to be addressed in its current form:

The largest issue is that the article is missing much in the way of citations to back the assertions being made. For instance, the paragraph on the birth of the civil rights movement makes many assertions about the role of the church in the movement and its importance to Black Americans that may very well be true, but provides no evidence from the literature to verify them. The author should go back through the article and ensure that when claims are made there is evidence from the literature provided to verify them.

Another issue is discussion of the curtail of religious expression. The characterization that statutes applied equally to all individuals without regard to the religious nature of the activity is at best an insufficient argument to provide evidence of the state infringing on religious liberty. The author is encouraged to provide examples that can be supported as limitations of religious expression happening because of the religious nature of the event to strengthen their argument.

Finally, while the current conclusion is a good start, the author is encouraged to provide more concrete examples of how the discussion in the rest of the paper can be applied to the practice of social work across micro, mezzo, and macro levels.